San Gabriel River Discovery Center Scoping Meeting - September 27, 2006 Summary of Public Comments

A public scoping meeting was held at South El Monte High School on September 27, 2006 to introduce and discuss the San Gabriel River Discovery Center project. The purpose of the scoping meeting was to solicit comments as to the scope and contents of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Approximately nine people attended the meeting to receive information about the project and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process. Attendees provided oral comments on the environmental issues of concern to them and gave suggestions for the design and operation of the proposed project. The table below contains the verbal comments made by participants at the meeting:

Category/Subcategory	Comment
Access	Will there access for bicycles through the trail system? Will there be bicycle parking on-site?
Access	Will equestrians be able to access the project site? Equestrians are riding over all
	the trails within the Recreation Area.
Access	The project may need to install a right-hand turn lane on Durfee into the site.
Biological Resources	Would the proposed project affect the vegetation along Durfee Avenue? This area contains a number of Mexican elderberry trees that are used by orioles, white-tailed kites, and other species, particularly during the spring and nesting season.
Biological Resources	What will be the impact to all of the birds that use the existing vegetation on the project site?
Biological Resources	There is important raptor habitat near the project site at the intersection of Peck Road and Durfee in the Edison towers. They may use the grassy area in the project boundary to fledge their young and for foraging.
Biological Resources	There are different types of habitat located on the project site. Will impacts to wildlife be evaluated?
Biological Resources	Coastal sage scrub may exist on-site. This impact needs to be evaluated. The walnut woodland was probably planted by the previous residences that were destroyed in a fire in the 1950s.
Biological Resources	There was an oak forest area on the project site that burned down.
Biological Resources	The Mexican elderberries on-site should be preserved and allowed to expand.
Biological Resources	If the hydrology of the project site is changing to add a wetland, what effect would it have on the habitat that would be taken out?
Facilities	Will the programs at the Discovery Center be available to all children from all areas?
Facilities	Is there a list of the other partners besides LA County Department of Parks and Recreation that will be putting on programs at the Discovery Center and what they plan to do?
Facilities	What are the proposed hours of operation?
Facilities	What factors went in to determining the size of the Discovery Center building?
Facilities	Design the landscaping to avoid impacts to bird species.
Facilities	Should a constructed wetland be included in the design? What impacts will that have to hydrology, biological resources, and aesthetics to put a wetland where it does not belong?
Facilities	The interpretive plan should include native plants, such as coastal sage scrub.
Facilities	What will the staffing levels be when this project is complete?
Hydrology	How is the hydrology of the river connected to the project site?
Related Plans and Programs	Will future phases of the park development and Master Plan be considered in this EIR?